

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 637 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Judiciary

**Prince George's County - Pretrial Release for Defendants
Charged with Crimes of Violence**

PG 314 - 97

This bill prohibits a Prince George's County District Court Commissioner from releasing pretrial a person charged with a crime of violence if the person has been previously convicted of a crime of violence, except under specified circumstances. Current law prohibits such releases if the defendant is on parole, probation, or mandatory supervision for an earlier crime of violence.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not substantively change State activities or operations.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in Prince George's County expenditures. County revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal impact on small businesses as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Expenditures: Prince George's County expenditures could increase if detainees are held for longer periods of time in the county detention center, where people arrested in counties are held pending a decision on pretrial release. The per diem cost to house a defendant in the Prince George's County Detention Center is estimated at \$66 per inmate.

Pretrial Release Services in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services advises that detainees for such crimes, with or without prior convictions, are not now typically released by District Court Commissioners. Accordingly, any increase in detention costs resulting from this bill is expected to be minimal.

Small Business Effect: This bill prohibits the pretrial release of persons previously convicted of a crime of violence. Based on calendar 1995 data, approximately 10% of the clients of bail bond agencies are repeat violent offenders. Thus, the revenue of small businesses in Prince George's County providing bail bond services could be reduced by a minimal amount as a result of reduced business opportunities.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Pretrial Release Services Program), Prince George's County, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 1997

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